

Handout 20.1. *Macbeth* iMovie Assignment

The Movie

Who needs Roman Polanski or Orson Welles when we've got you! We are now going to embark on a moviemaking adventure! You will form a group, and together you will create a movie trailer for *Macbeth*. The trailer will highlight the imagery and themes of *Macbeth* and sell it to an audience. We will examine how movie trailers are put together, learn about and apply appropriate camera techniques, and build a trailer for *Macbeth* using digital video and iMovie software.

The Task

You will demonstrate an understanding of Shakespearean drama and film adaptation by creating a short film advertisement, preview, or "trailer" for a production of *Macbeth*. You must plan an appropriate adaptation, create a script for the scene clips that would most capture the audience's attention, create costumes and design a set, film the scene clips using digital video, choose appropriate musical background, and create the finished "trailer" using iMovie software. This will require you to study various film adaptations of Shakespeare's plays, examine sample movie trailers, and learn how to use the camera to create a variety of dramatic effects.

Resources

Our primary resource for this project is of course the play itself: *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare. You may also consider the film versions that we viewed in class. You can also use your own previous experience with film adaptations of other Shakespearean plays (remember *Romeo and Juliet*?). These should provide good models of the wide variety of ways that Shakespeare's plays could be adapted for film. But you must also consider what a trailer would look like. Examine models provided on these websites:

<http://www.apple.com/trailers>

<http://www.movie-list.com>

<http://www.comingsoon.net/trailers>

We will also learn about camera techniques at the following websites:

<http://www.mediacollege.com/video/camera/tutorial/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbVfQsTYEos&p=658CEBEC73F9CD0B&index=5&playnext=4>

The Process

To accomplish the task, you must follow these steps:

1. Study the resources provided, and brainstorm ideas for the kind of film adaptation you want to create and the best ways to entice an audience to watch the film. Consider the major themes, the most dramatic lines, and the key scenes that would draw an audience to this film.
2. Write a script for the pieces of your film adaptation that will appear in your trailer.
3. Create a storyboard for your "trailer."
4. Create costumes and setting and gather all necessary props for your film performance.
5. Film your scene clips using digital video.
6. Use the iMovie software to build your film "trailer."
7. Transfer the finished products to videotape.
8. Watch and evaluate our scenes! Who's bringing the popcorn?

Evaluation

The final product will be evaluated using the rubric.

Learning Advice

This project requires creative thinking, ingenuity, and flexibility. You must be prepared to cooperate and contribute in your collaborative group. You also must be willing to act in a dramatic role. No time to be shy! You must be willing to give the performance your best effort. Who knows? Some of you may be the next Tom Hanks or Steven Spielberg!

If you get stuck, don't be afraid to ask me for help. I'm willing to act as a resource for you in any way that I can.

Conclusion

This is a unique way to show me what you have learned about the drama of William Shakespeare. I'm excited about the possibilities!